

Helena Vigilante Runners

Board Meeting #6

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2009

I. Call to order

President Engebrecht called to order the special meeting of the Helena Vigilante Runners at 7:04 pm on September 8th, 2009 at 107 W. Lawrence.

II. Roll call

The following board members were present: Steve Engebrecht, Mike Fanning, Marta Fisher (with treats!), Patrick Judge, Brian Wieck, Lori Heit, Michele Bazzanella, Scott Story, Jeff Thomas, Mike Jacobson, and Alan Wintersteen.

III. General Discussion

Steve Engebrecht explained that the purpose of the meeting was to address an email he had sent out, expressing some frustration. He noted that HURL-sponsored events like the Elkhorn Run and the Mount Helena Run are responsible for the majority of funds coming into HVR, and subsequently being spent on things like RRCA membership (and insurance) and porta-potties at the track. However, he felt that the HVR group (and many of the trackies, for example) haven't reciprocated that goodwill gesture, by sufficiently responding to calls for volunteer assistance, for example. He expressed his willingness to go forward with the fund transfer (and the remaining porta-pottie bills for the season), but he wants to be able to rely on the group for more support. Much discussion ensued, with clarification and agreement reached on the following points:

- the vision of HVR as an overarching, collaborative umbrella group for the community of runners in Helena is still something everyone supports – there are many benefits and efficiencies associated with having ONE legal and financial entity
- the subgroup identities are great, as long as they communicate with each other and support each other
- melding the resources of the various subgroups is a positive thing, but we should keep good financial statements that keep track of our income and expenses, so people will be aware if inequities are developing (if one subgroup is paying all the bills, for example, and not seeing any benefit)
- it is important to note, however, that contributions to the group involve more than just cash income – people make significant contributions of time, expertise, etc.
- the group brainstormed ideas for generating additional volunteers:
 - we do not have member dues, but we could require our members to volunteer once per year (HVR isn't incorporated as a "member organization", but it does have a list for RRCA)
 - vig attendance credits could be given for volunteer activities
 - person-to-person requests work better (vs. email only) – like announcing at track, w/ sign-up
 - make it known to the broader group how we operate, what it takes to put these events together, what our needs are
 - for Elkhorn, make it clear that it generates a lot of money for the club
 - for Elkhorn, make it clear that people can work half-shifts, for example
 - try to get the "Cedar group", for example, to take on an aid-station and apportion the hours
 - consider more frequent HVR meetings during key summer racing months
 - announce the race schedule on the listserves as early as possible in the year (January)

- and emphasize the need for volunteers
- also, in the Phase calendars, emphasize the need for volunteers for club-sponsored events
- prepare an “Event Manual” and also a “race director shadowing program” to help train people
- identify people with special skills (announcing, publicity, etc.) to work several events
- recruit support from outside our ranks (other social service clubs, Boy Scouts, etc.)
- bring in some new help for Mount Helena next year – Scott, Mike J., Sean, Todd, etc.
- we are still in a “gestation period” and are not yet ready to take on a bunch of additional events but there was talk of a possible 5k/10k/1k type event, or a road “Vigilante Mile” in the 70’s and 80’s, there were a lot of races in Helena & elsewhere, with broad appeal
- we are still just building the structure of the group, and don’t want to overtax ourselves or our volunteer pool – additional events will come with time
- create “kid friendly” volunteer opportunities (for parents with kids in tow)

IV. 501c(3) Application Update

Mike Fanning collected addresses from the directors, in order to help fill out the form. He and Pat have started wading through it. The group discussed the pros and cons (including the \$300 filing fee) and decided that they wanted to continue the process.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

VI. Addendum

On September 30th, 2009, Patrick Judge made an email proposal to the HVR board of directors, in which he asked for a donation to help cover the bus fare to the Montana Cup. He stated that the charter fee was \$640, and that a \$200 donation from HVR would make possible a fare of \$10 per person (assuming 44 passengers). The motion passed with support from Judge, Jodoin, Fisher, Seifert, Sarah Slanger, Sean Slanger, Mike Jacobson, Mike Wintersteen, Jeff Thomas, Lori Heit, and Steve Engebrecht. Michele Bazzanella, Mike Fanning, and Scott Story opposed the motion.

Additionally, the following board members expressed support for waving the bus fare for junior division runners (an idea put forth by Thomas Jodoin, to advance the HVR purpose of promoting the younger generations to participate in running): Jodoin, Judge, Bazzanella, Thomas, Story, Engebrecht, and possibly others. This should be clarified at the next board meeting.

These minutes were prepared by Secretary Lori Heit and Patrick Judge.